

An aerial photograph of a golf course, showing various green fairways, sand traps, and water hazards. The image is overlaid with several geometric shapes: a large cyan diagonal bar in the upper left, a cyan irregular shape in the upper right containing the text 'COMMITTEE FOR THE HUNTER', and several overlapping cyan and orange lines forming a network across the lower half of the image. The text '2023 IN REVIEW' is prominently displayed on the left side.

COMMITTEE
FOR THE
HUNTER

2023

IN REVIEW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Committee for the Hunter acknowledge the diverse Traditional Owners and Custodians of our region and recognise their enduring connection to land, water and culture.

We acknowledge the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Geawegal, Guringai, Wannarua and Worimi peoples on whose land we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging for their enriching contribution to Australian life.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Committee for the Hunter is an independent and inclusive champion for the people of the Greater Hunter and their enterprises. Representing over 70 organisations including the largest employers and institutions in the region, we provide a unified voice for the Hunter. Our members are drawn from the private and community sectors and all three levels of government. We come together with a shared interest in building a sustainable, prosperous and equitable future for our region. The Committee delivers on that promise through advocacy on regionally-significant priorities, thought leadership and partnerships.

The diversification of the Hunter economy is the most significant priority of the Committee and our members.

More information about the Committee can be found at www.hunter.org.au

INTRODUCTION

As cities and regions compete for focus, talent and investment, it is more important than ever that the Hunter has a strong, unified voice to advocate for our region's priorities. Members of the Committee for the Hunter have created a powerful network, giving our region a louder, more influential voice.

Our advocacy joins the dots across sectors, levels of government and the geography of the Greater Hunter, taking a coordinated, long-term and non-partisan approach to the region's development.

On the fourth anniversary of incorporation, this Annual Report shows how far we've come since the Committee was just a vision.

The Committee's membership now includes the largest employers and economic anchors in the region, industry, business, unions, all three levels of government, education providers and the community sector.

Following the NSW and Federal elections, engagement with government has been a big focus over the period. We worked across our members, expert advice, evidence and peak body partners to advocate for Hunter priorities with a **unified voice**.

We also provided a unique **independent voice** for the region. Our advocacy informed by members and peak body partners.

We're proud of the impact of the Committee over the year, including a legislated pathway to a Port of Newcastle container terminal, helping shape NSW and Federal transition authorities, securing grant funding for the industry-led Hunter Hydrogen Taskforce, new public sector jobs here through an APS Academy Pilot, more investment in social and affordable housing, and reforms to planning, housing and growth infrastructure.

But as the NSW and Australian governments reviewed their budgets, over \$1.5 billion of commitments have been cut from the Hunter.

These include regional priorities like better rail between Sydney-Newcastle, sustainable funding for Newcastle and Lake Macquarie mine grouting, funding for the activation of land around the airport and growth of defence industries in place of the Williamstown SAP, targeted support for coal communities in transition, and ensuring NSW Planning maintains footprint in and focus on the Hunter with the axing of the Greater Cities Commission.

Now more than ever, the Committee has an important role to champion good policy and investment in the Hunter's long-term needs and keep governments accountable for their decisions.

On behalf of the Chair and Committee team, we wish to thank our members for your support of our important mission over the last year.

Our model only works through partnerships, leveraging our collective expertise and resources to advance the Hunter. We look forward to what we will achieve working together over the next year on behalf of the region.



RICHARD ANICICH AM
Chair



ALICE THOMPSON
CEO

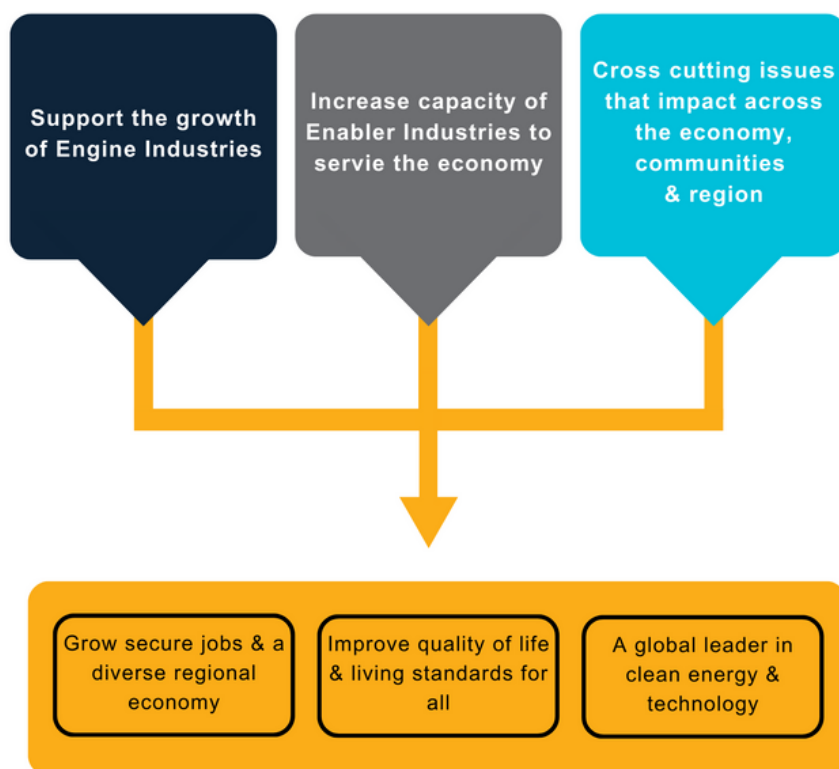
OUR MISSION

A Unified Voice for the Hunter

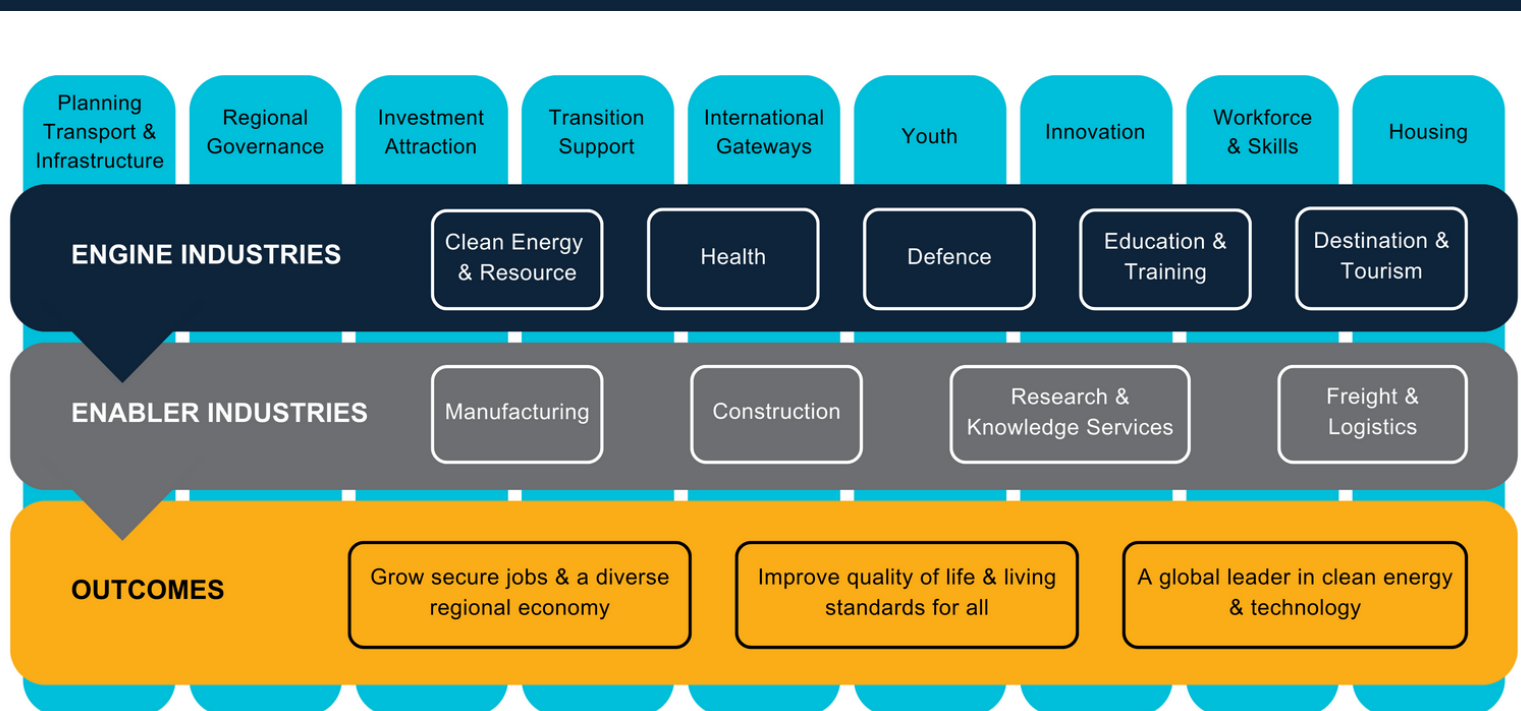
The Committee for the Hunter is an independent and inclusive champion for the people of the Hunter and their enterprises, providing advocacy and thought leadership and partnerships to build a sustainable and prosperous future for the region.

How we achieve change

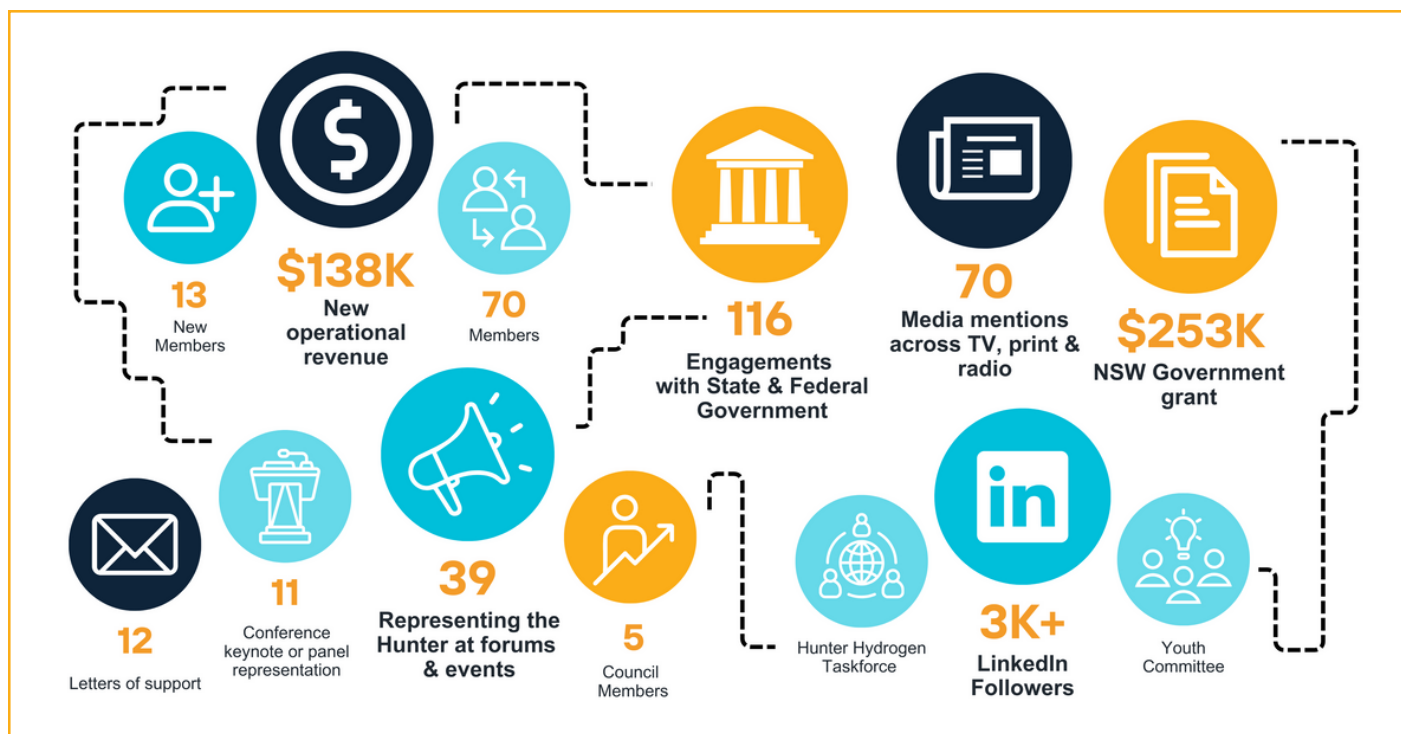
The Committee focuses on regionally-significant priorities that strengthen growth sectors and cut across the economy & region to deliver positive outcomes in a joined-up plan.



Our Scope



IMPACT 2023



Key social, economic and sustainability wins for the region the Committee's advocacy helped secure:

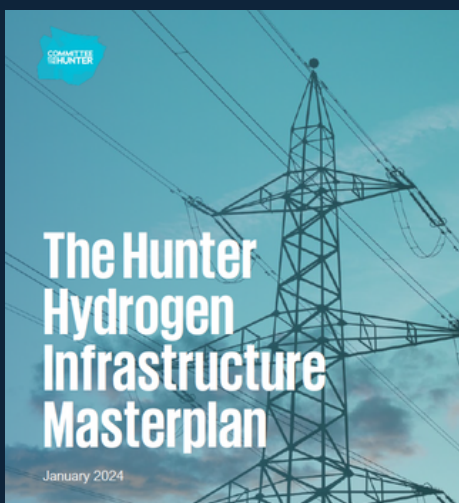
- A legislated pathway to a Port of Newcastle container terminal and diversification
- Influencing the structure and priorities of emerging NSW and Federal transition authorities
- Reforms to planning, housing and infrastructure through the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 and Lower Hunter City Plan process.
- University of Newcastle funding for a New Energy Skills and Training Hub
- Sustainable funding for GP Access After Hours services.

- Funding for hydrogen projects and shared infrastructure, including securing a grant to develop the Hunter Hydrogen Infrastructure Masterplan through the Hunter Hydrogen Taskforce led by the Committee.
- Focus and progress on Hunter Park planning
- Designation of an offshore wind area off the Hunter
- Investment in clean energy infrastructure
- More public sector jobs here through an APS Academy Campus pilot
- More public investment in social and crisis housing

But as new governments reviewed budgets to underwrite their election commitments and deliver on their priorities, over \$1.5 billion of commitments have been cut including long-standing regional priorities. These include:

- \$1.5B Sydney-Newcastle fast rail
- \$25M Williamstown Special Activation Precinct
- ~\$300K Greater Cities Commission Hunter- based resourcing which pulled planning & infrastructure focus from Sydney to the region
- Modern Manufacturing Commissioner & Strategy
- \$5M Newcastle Mine Grouting Fund
- \$220M Resources for Regions
- NSW Trade & Investment Commissioners & investment attraction functions

INITIATIVES



Hunter Hydrogen Taskforce

Coordinating the planning, delivery & optimisation of Hunter hydrogen hub projects & shared infrastructure, & advocating for regionally-significant priorities.



Housing

Working across members and peak organisations to identify priorities and coordinate engagement with governments via submissions, briefs and meetings.



Submissions

Comprehensive & targeted submissions on regionally significant priorities provided to governments, informed through consultation with members & stakeholders, evidence & expert advice.



Unified Voice

Providing a unified voice on regional priorities to inform better policy & investment. Important platform for coordination & collaboration on advocacy across 13 peak/representative organisations operating in the Hunter.



Itineraries

Bringing governments out of Canberra & Sydney to tour the Hunter, providing a joined-up overview of Hunter priorities to inform decisions & showcase regional achievements.

Premier's push to deliver faster housing



Media

Raising awareness of Hunter priorities with local & national audiences, and helping keep governments accountable for delivery through public reporting.



Youth Committee for the Hunter

Increasingly recognised as the go to for consultation and advice on issues affecting young people in the region. The biennial Youth Voice Hunter survey providing a valuable resource for policy makers.



Conference keynotes

Representing the Hunter at a variety of national & international forums, promoting our region, priorities & building strategic relationships with business, governments & stakeholders.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES 2023-26

Advocacy

- Get the region at the front of the queue for government & private investment, & talent attraction, by driving & promoting a compelling narrative on “why the Hunter”.
- Coordinate across regional partners to provide a unified voice to advocate for Hunter priorities & secure the partnerships we need to deliver.
- Influence the priorities & investments of governments & business to advance the economy, communities & businesses of our region.

Member Benefits

- Promote member achievements and provide opportunities to get their priorities to the centre of government and business decisions.
- Provide more forums and platforms to harness and direct member expertise, experience and resources to address regionally significant problems and opportunities.
- Enhanced events program and member communications.
- Members can see how their contributions through the Committee are delivering outcomes for the region.

Thought Leadership

- Provide independent advice based on evidence, expert advice and consultation through a variety of platforms.
- Drive and strengthen the narrative and priorities for economic diversification and industrial transformation in the Hunter.
- Our advice is credible and used by governments, media and stakeholders to effect better policy, investment and increase local capacity.

Strong Organisation

- Financial growth and sustainability, increasing the Committee’s capacity to make a difference.
- Upholding good governance principles and best practice.
- High performing corporate, operations and team.

MEMBERS

Committee for the Hunter gives thanks to our members for their valued support. Together we are building a sustainable and prosperous future for the region.

We are particularly grateful for the generous support of our **PATRONS** and **GOLD** members.

PATRONS



FOUNDER



FOUNDER

GOLD MEMBERS





SILVER MEMBERS

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Barr Property & Planning
The Bloomfield Group
Castle Personnel Services
Chris Chapman
Custom Learning Design
Eighteen04
Emergent Group
Hunter Medical Research Institute

Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association
Kardinia Energy
LabourCo
The Melt
North – Building with Trust
Northrop
Dylan Shoesmith
Singleton Council
Brad Webb

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Hunter Joint Organisation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**RICHARD ANICICH
AM**
Chair



KATIE BRASSIL
Deputy Chair
Non-Executive Director



KARI ARMITAGE
Managing Director,
Quarry Mining and
Construction



MARKUS BROKHOF
Chief Operating
Officer, AGL Energy



MORVEN CAMERON
CEO,
Lake Macquarie City
Council



CANDICE CRAWFORD
Company Secretary,
Brokenwood Wines



HENNIE DU PLOOY
CEO,
Port Waratah Coal
Services



ROD HENDERSON
CEO & Managing
Director,
Ampcontrol Group



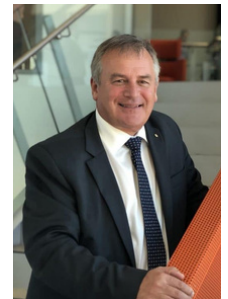
WAYNE JOHNSON
CEO & Managing
Director, ARTC



DYLAN SHOESMITH
Youth Committee for the
Hunter Director



BRAD WEBB GAICD
CEO, Castle Personnel



**PROFESSOR
ALEX ZELINSKY AO**
Vice-Chancellor
and President,
University of Newcastle

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